



United States Mission to the OSCE

PRESS RELEASE

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Human Dimension Activities Remain a Cornerstone of an Enduring Security in Europe

OSCE participating States, in concert with over 300 NGOs, have commenced their wide-ranging review of the status of human rights in the OSCE area through the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) held in Warsaw. The HDIM emphasizes the importance of the human dimension of security and goes hand-in-hand with more traditional or so-called "hard security" topics.

To contribute to these discussions, the U.S. delegation has organized a meeting on the margins of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) called **"The Role of the Human Dimension in European Security Architecture."** It will be held on Tuesday, **September 29, 2009** in the Conference Room of the U.S. delegation at the Sofitel Hotel in Warsaw from **1:00 – 2:30 p.m.** Refreshments will be provided. Please note that draft schedules had incorrectly listed the time for this event as 6:00 p.m.

This side event will feature **Ambassador John Kornblum**, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, former U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE, and former U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Ambassador Kornblum is well acquainted with the security debate in Europe and the extensive human dimension track record of the OSCE. His remarks will focus on the importance of continued progress in the full array of human dimension activities in the OSCE area as a cornerstone to enduring security in Europe. He expects to promote discussions on how OSCE principles and commitments set out an essential framework for ensuring security and how perceptions of insecurity can grow when these principles and commitments are not being observed and implemented.

During his long and distinguished Foreign Service career, Ambassador Kornblum specialized in European and East-West relations. Indeed, he played a defining role in many of the important events leading up to the end of the Cold War. These include: the Quadripartite negotiations on Berlin (1970-1973), the Helsinki Final Act (1973-1975), the Belgrade Summit of the OSCE (1977-1978), the debate over intermediate nuclear weapons in Europe (INF) in the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan's historic appearance at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin (1987), German reunification (1990), the Helsinki Summit Conference of the OSCE (1992), the Dayton Accords on the Balkans (1995), the enlargement of NATO (1997), and the agreement on compensation of slave laborers and establishment of the Reconciliation Foundation of German Industry (2000). Ambassador Kornblum also directed two dramatic prisoner and spy exchanges on the Glienicker Bridge in Berlin in 1985 and 1986. The latter included the release of Soviet dissident Anatoli Scharanskiy.

Ambassador Kornblum was a member of the State Department's Policy Planning staff under Henry Kissinger (1973-1975), Director of the State Department's Office of Central European Affairs (1981-1985), United States Minister and Deputy Commandant in Berlin (1985-1987), Deputy U.S. Ambassador to NATO (1987-1991), Ambassador and head of the U.S. Mission to the OSCE in Vienna (1991-1994), and Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs and U.S. Special Envoy to the Balkans (1995-1997). He served as the U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 1997 until 2001.

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